

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A refrigerant composition comprising a chlorine-free hydrofluorocarbon based refrigerant and, mixed therewith, a lubricant containing a polyol ester prepared by the process comprising:

(a) mixing 3-hydroxy-2,2-dimethyl-propyl-3-hydroxy-2,2-dimethyl-propionate (HPHP)

and

- trimethylol propane, trimethylol ethane, pentaerythritol or 2,2,4-trimethylpentadiol, the amount of the 3-hydroxy-2,2-dimethyl-propyl-3-hydroxy-2,2-dimethyl-propionate being at least 50 mol-% of the polyol residue of the ester mixture, [and] or
- an ester of 2-butyl-2-ethyl-1,3-propanediol, the molar ratio of the 2-butyl-2-ethyl-1,3-propanediol ester and the 3-hydroxy-2,2-dimethyl-propyl-3-hydroxy-2,2-dimethyl-propionate being 5:95 – 99:1, and

(b) esterifying said mixture in situ.

Claim 18 (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) The refrigerant composition according to claim 17, wherein the carboxylic acid residue of the polyol ester is derived from a linear or branched C₄-C₁₈-carboxylic acid, or anhydrides thereof, or it is derived from a mixture of linear or branched C₄-C₁₈-carboxylic acids or anhydrides thereof.

20. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration composition according to claim 19, wherein the carboxylic acid residue is derived from 2-ethylhexanoic acid, heptanoic acid, octanoic acid and/or lauric acid.

21. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration composition according to claim 17, wherein the carboxylic acid residue of the ester is derived from a mixture of mono- and dibasic carboxylic acids.

22. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration composition of claim 21, wherein the monobasic carboxylic acid residue is derived from linear or branched C₄-C₁₈-carboxylic acids or anhydrides or mixtures thereof.

23. (Previously Presented) The refrigerant composition according to claim 21 or 22, wherein the dibasic carboxylic acid residue is derived from oxalic acid, malonic acid, dimethylmalonic acid, succinic acid, sebacic acid, pimelic acid, suberic acid, azelaic acid, a cyclic anhydride or an alkyl derivative thereof, or trimellitic anhydride.

24. (Previously Presented) The refrigerant composition according to claim 23, wherein the cyclic anhydride is succinic anhydride.

25. (Previously Presented) The refrigerant composition according to claim 21, wherein the molar ratio between the mono- and dibasic carboxylic acids is 50:50 to 95:5.

26. (Previously Presented) The refrigerant composition according to claim 17, wherein the fluorinated hydrocarbon based refrigerant is hydrofluorocarbon 134, hydrofluorocarbon 134a, hydrofluorocarbon 143, hydrofluorocarbon 143a, hydrofluorocarbon 152, hydrofluorocarbon 152a or a mixture thereof.